

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 IO-13

L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 PRS-01

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5691

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USNMR SHAPE BE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

S E C R E T NATO 08508

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, MBFR, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR:WG STUDY ON SECURITY IMPLICATIONS OF
RELEASE OF NATO AIR FORCES MANPOWER DATA

REFS: (A) STATE 210178 DTG 012324Z SEP 77, (B) STATE
195944 DTG 180027Z AUG 77, (C) NATO 8258 DTG 301318Z AUG
77, (D) NATO 8133 DTG 260813Z AUG 77, (E) NATO 6965
DTG 191824Z JUL 77

SUMMARY: AT WG MEETING SEPTEMBER 6, FRG AND DUTCH REPS
CONTENDED THAT DISCLOSURE OF DATA FOR INDIVIDUAL AIR BASES
COULD, IN SPECIFIC CASES, REVEAL KEY INFORMATION ON
READINESS AND COMPOSITION OF FORCES. REVISED TEXT WILL
BE CIRCULATED SUGGESTING THAT FIGURES ON MAJOR AIR FORM-
ATIONS SHOULD NOT BE SUBDIVIDED INTO FIGURES FOR INDIVIDUAL
AIR BASES. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING THE SEPTEMBER 6 MBFR WORKING GROUP (WG) MEETING,
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DUTCH REP NOTED THAT REVEALING NUMBERS OF PERSONNEL AT ONE
KEY DUTCH AIRBASE WOULD INDICATE ITS STATE OF READINESS
AND THE DUAL CAPABLE ROLE OF AIRCRAFT AT THE BASE. FRG REP
SUPPORTED THE DUTCH POSITION AS APPLICABLE TO SEVERAL FRG
BASES ADDING THAT CHANGES IN AN AIR BASE'S STRENGTH COULD
GIVE INDICATIONS OF ITS ROLE AND READINESS.

2. WG CHAIRMAN OBSERVED THAT INFORMATION ON BASE STRENGTH WAS PROVIDED TO LOCAL OFFICIALS AND POLICE AND THAT WP HAD PRESUMABLY IDENTIFIED THOSE ALLIED BASES WITH SPECIAL ROLES. DUTCH AND FRG REPS RESPONDED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WAS A QUALITATIVE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DIRECTLY SUPPLYING WP INFORMATION ON AIR BASE STRENGTH AND THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE EAST IS AWARE OF THE FIGURES.

3. UK REP, WHILE NOTING UK'S OFFICIAL SATISFACTION WITH DRAFT REPORT, SUGGESTED SUBSTITUTING THE FOLLOWING AS THE FINAL SENTENCE TO PARA 7 (REF E) TO MEET FRG AND DUTCH CONCERNS.

BEGIN TEXT: FOR CERTAIN BASES, HOWEVER, PARTICULARLY THOSE TASKED IN A STRIKE ROLE AND AT HIGH STATES OF READINESS, DISCLOSURE OF THE AGGREGATED MANPOWER OF AN INDIVIDUAL AIR BASE WHICH COMPRISED ONLY ONE FUNCTIONAL UNIT (E.G. A WING OR SQUADRON) WOULD REVEAL THE SORT OF KEY INFORMATION RECORDED AT PARAS 3 AND 6 ABOVE. END TEXT.

ACCEPTANCE OF THIS MODIFICATION WOULD MEAN DELETION OF PARA 12C WITH A CONCLUSION, IN BROAD TERMS THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO DISCLOSURE OF AGGREGATE MANPOWER FOR INDIVIDUAL AIR BASES.

4. COMMENT: FRG AND DUTCH RELUCTANCE TO ACCEPT FURTHER
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BREAKDOWN OF AIR MANPOWER PRESUMABLY REFLECTS HESITATION TO MAKE ANY MOVES EVEN HINTING AIR MANPOWER REDUCTIONS. SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS APPEAR TO HAVE STIMULATED A FURTHER ELEMENT OF CAUTION. END COMMENT.

5. WG STAFF WILL CIRCULATE SHORTLY A REVISED TEXT INCORPORATING LARGELY ACCEPTED POINTS FROM CORRIGENDUM (REFS B, C, D2" AND SEEK APPROVAL FROM CAPITALS BY NEXT WG MEETING NOW SCHEDULED FOR SEPT. 20. BENNETT

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